Income from Private Cable Operators

†4150. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total income earned by Government from various private cable network organisations in the country;

(b) whether Government have any monitoring agency to look into and inspect the *modus operandi* and monthly income of big cable network companies;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons for not auditing the accounts of such big cable network companies and not monitoring the same; and

(e) the corrective steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) It has been informed by the Department of Revenue in the Ministry of Finance that the total income earned by Government from various private cable network organisations in the country is not centrally maintained. However, as per the income tax returns, the assessee is required to declare the annual income only.

(d) and (e) As per section 44AB of the Income Tax Act, 1961, every person carrying on business, including a cable operator, is required to get its accounts audited by an accountant before the specified date, if its total sales, turnover or gross receipts in business exceed Rs. 40 lakh in any previous year. Whenever any incidence of suppression of income or avoidance of tax by any person, including cable TV operators, comes to the notice of the Government, appropriate action as deemed fit under the law is taken.

Audit of income of cable TV Operators

4151. Dr. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any agency to audit the income of Cable TV Operators;

(b) if so, the total income tax collected from them during 2000-2001; and

(c) if not, whether Government would propose for such an audit?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue have informed that in terms of Section 44AB of the Income Tax Act, 1961, every person carrying a business, including cable operator, is required to get its accounts audited by an accountant before the specified date, if its total sales, turnovers, or gross receipts in business exceed Rs. 40 lakh in any previous year. Department of Revenue have informed that the total income accruing to the Government from various private cable television operators is not centrally maintained.

Hundred per cent Television Coverage

4152. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry has developed adequate capabilities (both technology-wise and infrastructure-wise) for bringing the entire population under television coverage as the Planning Commission has made this a condition to approve funds for the Tenth Five year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time-frame within which hundred per cent television coverage would be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Prasar Bharati has the capability to set up the requisite facilities utilizing appropriate technology for providing TB coverage to the entire population of the country, subject to availability of requisite funds.

(b) In terrestrial mode, TV coverage is available to about 89.6% population of the country (including the population in rural and remote areas) and it is expected to become available to about 91.3% population, on commissioning of on-going transmitter projects. It is the constant endeavour of DD to provide TV coverage in uncovered areas for which alternative technology options have also been included in the 10th Plan. No time frame for achieving cent percent coverage can be indicated.

Ban on Pre and Exit Polls

4153. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government to ban pre and exit polls opinions as they unnecessarily influence the voters and create confusion among the people;